29th September 1955]

(*b*) The extent of damage caused to the three country boats is estimated at Rs. 1,700. No cargo was jettisoned on account of the bad whether. Goods worth about Rs. 600 were spoiled due to the rough seas and winds and two bags of rice were abandoned as completely spoiled.

(*c*) The cargo damaged consisted of rice, sugar, tea-dust, horsegram, salt, clothes, oil, soap, etc.

(*d*) Jettisoning of private cargo is not uncommon and the loss is not usually made good to the islanders at Government cost. Sufficient foodgrains and clothing had been transported to the islands even before the storm broke out and those withheld on account of the storm were not appreciable.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: After the damage caused to the three country boats, did the Government enquire whether the damage caused to the boats adversely affected the islanders inasmuch as the boats contained foodgrains and clothes to be taken to the islands and, if so, when and what was the finding? As far as my information goes, they were put to great difficulty for some days because they did not have these necessaries of life? 9-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Only after gathering information the answer has been prepared. As regards damage to the goods, I have already stated that there was damage to a certain extent. There has been enough stock in the islands to meet the needs of the people.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: May I know whether foodgrains and clothes were transported to the islands after the damage due to the cyclone?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: I should think so.

*2563 *Q.*—SRI M. CHADAYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of families who were seriously affected by cyclone and flood in Chirakkal taluk in Malabar in May last;

(*b*) the total number of such families that received help from the Government to build or repair houses; and

(*c*) the nature of help given to the other less serious cases?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) In Chirakkal taluk 614 houses were destroyed and 1,895 houses were partly damaged. Three thousand five hundred and eight persons were rendered homeless.

(*b*) & (*c*) The exact number of families that received help from the Government is not known. The Collector of Malabar has sanctioned relief at the rates of Rs. 30 and Rs. 15 for each Harijan for reconstruction and substantial repairs respectively of houses affected and at the rates of Rs. 20 and Rs. 10 for each non-Harijan. The Government have sanctioned a sum of

[29th September 1955

Rs. 19,335 from State Funds for the purpose. Out of this a sum of Rs. 13,000 had already been disbursed and the balance is being distributed to the victims.

SRI M. CHADAYAN: സർ, ചിറക്കൽ താലൂക്കിൽ ഭയങ്കരമായ കൊടുങ്കാററു കൊണ്ടു് നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവന്ന പാവങ്ങളായ കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്കു അനുവദിച്ച സംഖ്യ ഇതുവരെ കൊടുത്തുതീർത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്ന വാസ്തവം ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്നറിയാമോ? അതിന്റെ കാരണം ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്റെ പക്കൽ പണമില്ലായ്മയാണോ, ജില്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അനാസ്ഥയും വീഴ്ചയുമാണോ?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member says that compensation has not been paid and asks whether it is due to lack of funds with the Government or due to dereliction of duty on the part of the officers concerned.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: It takes some time to make enquiries and disburse the amount. Out of Rs. 19,335, Rs. 13,000 have already been disbursed and the balance is being disbursed. There is bound to be some delay because we cannot simply throw away the money to all people who ask. We have to see whether the people are actually affected.

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: I rise on a point of order, Sir. In answering a supplementary question put by me on the seven questions taken up together, the Hon. Minister said that it was a different question altogether relating to land reforms. The Minister said in answer to the main question that the amount was given for building or repairing the damaged houses. When a party received the amount and went to the place, he was not permitted to carry out the repair. That was the reason why I asked whether the Hon. Minister was aware of such a situation and, if so, what action had been taken to avert it. My question was a pertinent question. Therefore the Hon. Speaker may, if he has no objection, direct the Minister to answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order should relate to the procedure in the House, and it cannot arise out of the substance of a reply given by a Minister. If there is any irregularity in procedure committed by the Speaker, a Minister or a Member, it will be in order for any member to rise on a point of order and bring the irregularity to the notice of the Speaker. In this case the Member says that the reply given by the Minister is not correct. I am sorry the point raised cannot be regarded as a point of order.

Vridhachalam-Vepur-Salem road

* 2564 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many petitions were received by the Government during 1954 for improving the roads from Vridhachalam to Vepur and from Vepur to Salem to make them quite fit for bus traffic;